

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 4-31 are withdrawn from consideration at this time. Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lieber et al. (WO 01/03208). With this response, claim 1 is amended and claim 32 is newly added. Support for the amendment and new claim can be found at least at p. 7, lines 1-2, and at Fig. 2B. Reconsideration of the claims, in light of the remarks that follow, is respectfully requested.

Lieber discloses nanoscopic wire-based devices, arrays, and methods of their manufacture (title). The nanoscopic wires are arranged in highly aligned arrays, e.g., as shown in Figs. 3B and 8. Lieber discloses that the nanoscopic wires are preferably individual nanotubes, and mentions that nanotube ropes containing many individual nanotubes can be used (p. 8, lines 17-20).

In contrast, claim 1 as amended recites “a defined patch of nanotube fabric, the nanotube fabric comprising a film of nanotubes.” Lieber does not disclose or suggest anything that can reasonably be construed as a nanotube fabric or film. Lieber discloses individual nanotubes, and mentions nanotube ropes, i.e., bundles of nanotubes. Those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that nanotube fabrics or films are significantly different both from individual nanotubes and from nanotube ropes or bundles. As Lieber does not disclose or suggest anything resembling “a defined patch of nanotube fabric, the nanotube fabric comprising a film of nanotubes” Lieber does not anticipate claim 1, or claims dependent thereon.

Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 1 does not change its scope; the instant application uses the terms films, layers, and fabrics interchangeably (p. 7, lines 1-2). Instead, the amendment is intended to avoid an unintended interpretation of the phrase “nanotube fabric” and to expedite prosecution.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow the claims to issue. No fees are believed to be due at this time. However, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 8, 2007



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